

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-22 are pending, with Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7-13, 19, and 20 amended by the present amendment.

In the Official Action, Claims 1-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ludwig et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0225832, hereinafter Ludwig) in view of Yogeswar et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,035,468, hereinafter Yogeswar).

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7-13, 19, and 20 are amended to more clearly describe and distinctly claim Applicants' invention. Support for this amendment is found in Applicants' originally filed specification.¹ No new matter is added.

Claim 1 is directed to

A system for archiving a collaboration over a network, the collaboration having plural *cotemporaneous* media streams, each media stream having a *different media type* and at least one media stream having a *different start or stop time* from another media stream, the system comprising:

an input adapter operable to accept each media stream of the collaboration over a network interface;

an archive engine operable to accept the cotemporaneous plural media streams of the collaboration from the input adapter and to format the plural media streams of the collaboration for storage *as a session* by appending each of the plural media streams with *time-relationship data* that identifies a time relationship *between* the plural media of the collaboration;

an archive database operable to store the session created by the archive engine; and

an output adapter operable to retrieve *two or more media streams* from an archived session for replay of the collaboration by accessing elements of the stored session *in accordance with the time-relationship data*.

Claim 8 is directed to

A method for archiving a network collaboration having plural *cotemporaneous* media streams, each media stream having a *different media type* and at least one media stream have a *different start or stop time* from another media stream, the method comprising:

interfacing with the network to receive the plural media streams;

¹ Specification, page 7, lines 2-13.

formatting each of the plural media streams for storage as a temporally related *session* by appending each of the contemporaneous plural media streams with *time-relationship data* that identifies a time relationship *between* the plural media streams of the collaboration;
storing the session in an archive database; and
retrieving *two or more media streams* from of the stored session *in accordance with the time-relationship data* for replay of the collaboration.

Ludwig describes a multimedia collaborative system that integrates separate real time and asynchronous networks. However, as acknowledged in the Official Action, Ludwig does not disclose or suggest the “archive engine operable... to format the plural media of the collaboration for storage as a session that *temporally relates the plural media over the duration of the collaboration*” of original Claim 1 or the step of “formatting each of the plural media for storage *as a temporally related session that relates each media over the duration of the collaboration*” of original Claim 8.² To cure this deficiency, the Official Action applies Yogeswar.

Yogeswar describes methods and an apparatus for archival storage and retrieval of audio/video information. The data archived in Yogeswar is archived in accordance with IAF. The IAF supported formats allow metadata to be incorporated with the encoded A/V data (e.g., as auxiliary data) without interfering with the ability of a decoder³ The types of information used in Yogeswar include a) quality information; b) intended use information; and c) image source information.⁴ Using this information, Yogeswar automatically selects a video/audio encoding format and associated parameters suitable for an indicated user or application. Alternatively, the system can suggest formats/encoding levels to a system user for their review and approval.⁵

Figure 2 of Yogeswar illustrates a flowchart 200 showing the steps of retrieving and distributing data stored in the archive. In step 208, information to be retrieved is located as a

² Similarly, Ludwig does not disclose or suggest the archive engine or step of formatting recited in amended Claims 1 and 8.

³ Yogeswar, column 6, line 44 through column 7, line 22.

⁴ Yogeswar, column 7, lines 41-57.

⁵ Yogeswar, column 8, lines 21-25.

result of a search. Using the location information, user's specified information in the form of an IAF encoded data is retrieved from the archive.⁶

In another embodiment of Yogeswar, an analysis and indexing module 314 receives A/V material in compressed digital form, and analyzes an index the received data using index 321 to create index information which can be used in searching and accessing the encoded data. The analysis and indexing module 314 can also retrieve existing archived IAF file content, thereby allowing indexing or reindexing to be done at any time.⁷

The IAF file of Yogeswar includes a compressed audio/video bitstream, plus ancillary metadata that describes, tags or otherwise specially marks the bitstream or bitstreams which are multiplexed with the metadata into the IAF file.⁸ The IAF file is supplied to an archive storage manager which is responsible for placing the file in the archive. Then, in step 116, the IAF file is stored on the archive media for future retrieval. After the IAF file has been stored, the archived generation process stops.⁹ The IAF file of Yogeswar includes one or more elements, *including a time code* (e.g., as per SMPTE). These time codes can be used *for synchronization and as access points*.¹⁰

However, Yogeswar does not disclose or suggest the "time-relationship data that identifies a time relationship *between the plural media of the collaboration*" that is recited in Applicants' amended Claims 1 and 8. Similarly, Yogeswar does not disclose or suggest Applicants' claimed "output adapter operable to retrieve *two or more media streams* from an archived session for replay of the collaboration by accessing elements of the stored session *in accordance with the time-relationship data*" or retrieving "*two or more media streams* from of the stored session *in accordance with the time-relationship data* ." First, the time-stamp data of Yogeswar is largely undefined. However, Applicants interpret the time-stamp of

⁶ Yogeswar, column 10, lines 19-44.

⁷ Yogeswar, column 15, lines 18-60.

⁸ Yogeswar, column 9, lines 52-55.

⁹ Yogeswar, column 10, lines 14-18.

¹⁰ Yogeswar, column 16, lines 35-48.

Yogeswar to be an absolute time (i.e., defining a time-relationship between a single stream and a reference clock). Yogeswar does not disclose or suggest storing anything more than one stream. Thus, secondly, Yogeswar does not store relative time information (i.e., defining a time-relationship between a first stream and a second stream).

As none of the cited prior art, individually or in combination, disclose or suggest all the elements of independent Claims 1 and 8, Applicants submit the inventions defined by Claims 1 and 8, and all claims depending therefrom, are not rendered obvious by the asserted references for at least the reasons stated above.¹¹

Accordingly, in view of the present amendment and in light of the previous discussion, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and respectfully request an early and favorable action to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 03/06)
MM/rac



Bradley D. Lytle
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 40,073

Michael E. Monaco
Registration No. 52,041

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¹¹ MPEP § 2142 "...the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest **all** the claim limitations.